Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended): A computerized method for indicating availability of one or a multitude of application-servers,

said method comprising a first step of inserting into a central availability-database a first-data-element comprising a notification-period, said notification-period defining an upper time limit for a repetition period of an availability-signal being repeated as long as said application-server is available, and

said method comprising a second step of inserting into said central availability-database a second-data-element comprising for each availability-signal its corresponding time stamp as availability-time, and

whereby, the difference of the current-time and a recent availability-time compared to said notification-period is representing a measure of availability of said application-server; and

said method comprising a third step of updating said notification-period depending on the amount of workload of said application-server

either by increasing said notification-period, if said amount of the workload increases,

or by decreasing said notification-period, if said amount of the workload decreases.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Previously Presented): A computerized method for indicating availability according to claim 1,

wherein within said first and said second step also an application-server-identification is inserted into said central availability-database and associated with said first- and said second-data-element.

2

4. (Previously Presented): A computerized method for indicating availability according to claim 3,

wherein said measure of availability indicates unavailability of said application-server, if said difference exceeds said notification-period.

5. (Previously Presented): A computerized method for indicating availability according to claim 1,

wherein said central availability-database is shared by a multitude of application-servers each comprising a hot-pool of said one or multitude of application-servers, and

wherein for said hot-pool a watchdog is monitoring said hot-pool's availability status, and

wherein said method is being executed by said watchdog, and

wherein said availability-signal is being repeated as long as at least one of said application-servers of said hot-pool is available, and

wherein within said first and said second step also a hot-pool-identification is inserted into said central availability-database and is associated with said first- and said second-data-element.

6. (Original): A computerized method for indicating availability according to claim 2,

whereby as a second difference the difference of said recent availability-time and a previous availability-time is included in said measure of availability.

7. (Original): A computerized method for indicating availability according to claim 5,

whereby as a second difference the difference of said recent availability-time and a previous availability-time is included in said measure of availability.

8. (Currently Amended): A computerized method for determining availability of one or multitude of application-servers for accepting application-service-request,

said method comprising a first step of querying a central availability-database

3

for a first-data-element comprising a notification-period, said notification-period defining an upper time limit for a repetition-period of an availability-signal being repeated as long as said application-server is available, and

for a second-data-element comprising for a recent availability-signal its time-stamp as recent availability-time, and

said method comprising a second step of determining a measure of availability of said application-server by comparing the difference of the current-time and said recent availability-time to said notification-period,

said method comprising a third step of issuing an application-service-request to said application-server only, if said measure of availability indicates availability of said ~~indication~~application-server, and

wherein said measure of availability of the second step indicates unavailability of said application-server, if said difference exceeds said notification-period.

9. (Cancelled).

10. (Original): A computerized method for determining availability according to claim 8,

wherein said method is querying in said first step also for a third-data-element comprising a previous availability-time for a previous availability-signal, and

wherein in said second step also as a second difference the difference of said recent availability-time and said previous availability-time is included in said measure of availability.

11. (Original): A computerized method for determining availability according to claim 8,

wherein said measure of availability indicates unavailability of said application-server, if said difference exceeds said notification-period by a factor of N.

12. (Original): A computerized method for determining availability according to claim 10,

4

wherein said method is being executed for a multitude of application-servers, and wherein in said third step

a subset of application-servers, comprising application-servers for which said measure of availability indicates availability, is determined, and

for each application-server within said subset its corresponding measure of availability is interpreted as a workload indication, and

said application-service-request is being issued to an application-server with the lowest workload.

13. (Currently Amended): A system indicating availability of one or a multitude of application-servers, said system comprising:

a first device for inserting into a persistent central availability-database a first-data-element comprising a notification-period, said notification-period defining an upper time limit for a repetition period of an availability-signal being repeated as long as said application-server is available, and;

said device further inserts into said persistent central availability-database a second-data-element comprising for each availability-signal its corresponding time stamp as availability-time, and;

whereby, the difference of the current-time and a recent availability-time compared to said notification-period is representing a measure of availability of said application-server.

14. (Currently Amended): A data processing program for execution in a data processing system comprising software code portions, said software code portions comprises:

a first software code portion for inserting into a persistent central availability-database a first-data-element comprising a notification-period, said notification-period defining an upper time limit for a repetition period of an availability-signal being repeated as long as said an application-server is available, and;

5

a second software code portion for inserting into said <u>persistent</u> central availability-database a second-data-element comprising for each availability-signal its corresponding time stamp as availability-time, and;

whereby, the difference of the current-time and a recent availability-time compared to said notification-period is representing a measure of availability of said application-server, and;

<u>said method comprising a third step of updating said notification-period depending on the amount of workload of said application-server</u>

<u>either by increasing said notification-period, if said amount of the workload increases,</u>

<u>or by decreasing said notification-period, if said amount of the workload decreases, and;</u>

<u>wherein said measure of availability of the second step indicates unavailability of said application-server, if said difference exceeds said notification-period.</u>

15. (Currently Amended): A computer program product stored on a computer usable medium, comprising a computer readable program embodied in said medium, including:

readable code for inserting into a <u>remote</u> central availability-database a first-data-element comprising a notification-period, said notification-period defining an upper time limit for a repetition period of an availability-signal being repeated as long as ~~said~~ <u>an</u> application-server is available<u>, said remote central availability-database comprising a</u> <u>persistent file system separate from said application-server</u>, and;

readable code for inserting into said <u>remote central</u> availability-database a second-data-element comprising for each availability-signal its corresponding time stamp as availability-time, and

whereby, the difference of the current-time and a recent availability-time compared to said notification-period is representing a measure of availability of said application-server.

6

16. (Currently Amended): A system for determining availability of one or multitude of application-servers for accepting application-service-request, said system comprising:

a first device for querying a <u>remote and persistent</u> central availability-database;

for a first-data-element comprising a notification-period, said notification-period defining an upper time limit for a repetition-period of an availability-signal being repeated as long as said application-server is available;

for a second-data-element comprising for a recent availability-signal its time-stamp as recent availability-time;

said device determines a measure of availability of said application-server by comparing the difference of the current-time and said recent availability-time to said notification-period, and;

wherein said device issues an application-service-request to said application-server only, if said measure of availability indicates availability of said ~~indication~~<u>application-</u> server.

17. (Currently Amended): A data processing program for execution in a data processing system comprising software code portions, said software code portions comprises:

a first software code portion for querying a <u>remote and persistent</u> central availability-database;

for a first-data-element comprising a notification-period, said notification-period defining an upper time limit for a repetition-period of an availability-signal being repeated as long as said application-server is available;

for a second-data-element comprising for a recent availability-signal its time-stamp as recent availability-time;

a second software code portion to determine a measure of availability of said application-server<u>s</u> by comparing the difference of the current-time and said recent availability-time to said notification-period, and;

a third software code portion to issue an application-service-request to said application-server only, if said measure of availability indicates availability of said ~~indication~~application-server.

18. (Currently Amended): A computer program product stored on a computer usable medium, comprising a computer readable program embodied in said medium including:

readable code for querying a <u>remote and persistent</u> central availability-database;

for a first-data-element comprising a notification-period, said notification-period defining an upper time limit for a repetition-period of an availability-signal being repeated as long as said application-server is available;

for a second-data-element comprising for a recent availability-signal its time-stamp as recent availability-time;

readable code for determining a measure of availability of said application-server by comparing the difference of the current-time and said recent availability-time to said notification-period; and

readable code for issuing an application-service-request to said application-server only, if said measure of availability indicates availability of said ~~indication~~application-server.